



friday, november 7, 2014

Amon G. Carter Stadium, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.
NO. 9 K-STATE @ NO. 6 TCU

the collegian
GAMEDAY GUIDE

DANTE'S INFERNO



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN
Texas wide receiver John Harris tries and fails to catch a pass as junior safety **Dante Barnett** breaks it up.

Burton's storm is brewing, his day is coming

By TIMOTHY EVERSON
THE COLLEGIAN

As a first-year starter, it's expected that player will hit a few road blocks. For wide receiver Deante Burton, it has been a steady progression. Regardless of the results, Burton's progression has been notable and the physical 6-foot-2-inch wide receiver is on the cusp of breaking out in his sophomore season.

Take it from his teammates on the opposite side of the ball who are used to going to battle against shorter, slightly less physical receivers like Tyler Lockett and Curry Sexton.

"I remember early on in the season he made a few catches here and there but he struggled getting open for the most part," junior defensive back Morgan Burns said leading up to last week's game against Oklahoma State. "These last couple of games, he's made some big catches and I know against Texas he made a few catches on third down that were huge for us."

The Texas game was a career day for Burton as he hauled in four catches for 55 yards and his second-longest catch of the year at 18 yards.

These numbers may seem modest but appear to be a signs of things to come for his coaches and teammates.

Burton is coming off a redshirt freshman season where the only stat he recorded was a tackle in punt



Sophomore wide receiver **Deante Burton** looks to get around Stephen F. Austin's defensive back **Keavon Madison** on August 30, 2014 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

coverage against TCU. Last Saturday against the Cowboys, he was a foot drag away from his first career touchdown in a K-State uniform.

While Burton hasn't contributed on the scoreboard yet, his coaches seem encouraged by his progress as they hope to see his physical gifts combine with the "day at a time" mentality that has been a integral

part of K-State's structure.

"He will continue to get better and continue to evolve into a very fine player," head coach Bill Snyder said. "You know, he's got the physical stature to enhance that position. He has good height, he can be a physical player, he runs well. Like so many things that I've said, we're just hoping for the consistency and

working towards that continued progression on a consistent basis. He is and will be a good player."

Burton is part of the present and the future for this K-State offense. With Lockett and Sexton departing after this season, his role will change from a offensive pawn to a bishop or a rook in Snyder's chess board of an offense.

"I believe that he is really maturing," Burns said. "I think that the more games (he) gets under his belt and the more that (he) understands what it's like to play in front of a big crowd and play against big teams like Texas and (Oklahoma). I really trust that down the road, he's going to continue to improve and be a key player in the offense."

EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

Showdown in Norman highlights big games in playoff picture



AUSTIN EARL
THE COLLEGIAN



No. 10 Baylor at No. 16 Oklahoma, 11 a.m., FOX Sports 1 (Line: Oklahoma -6)

Two of the best teams in the Big 12 will kick off college football on Saturday. The Bears will travel to Norman, Oklahoma to keep their Big 12 title hopes alive.

The Bears are all about their high-flying offense. They average the most points per game in the nation and they also average the most total offense, passing yards, and rushing yards per game in the Big 12. Offense isn't the only strength of the Bears they allow just 21.8 points per game.

Oklahoma has a great ground attack. Last week against Iowa State, they ran for 510 yards, which contributed to their 751 yards of total offense. They average the ninth most points per game

in the nation. The Sooners' defense is statistically similar to Baylor's. They allow 21.8 points per game.

These two teams look like they are poised to provide some morning fireworks for college football fans. A win for Baylor would give them a major boost in their hunt for a Big 12 title, and possibly even the College Football Playoff. With losses to TCU and K-State already, Oklahoma has a tough road to win the conference. This game is a must-win if they want to fulfill that dream.



Iowa State at Kansas, 2:30 p.m. (Line: Iowa State -3.5)

This is a battle of the two teams tied for last place in the Big 12. The teams have identical 2-6 records and are winless in conference.

The Jayhawks have a tough time on the offensive side of the ball, and only score 16.3 points per game, which is the fewest in the conference. On defense, they are led by Ben Heeney. He is the conference's leading tackler and seventh in the nation in the category.

Iowa State's offense

has shown signs of life this season. They are still below average, but have scored over 25 points four times. Their defense gives up 38.3 points per game, which is the second-most in the Big 12.



No. 24 West Virginia at Texas, 2:30 p.m., FOX Sports 1 (Line: West Virginia -3)

West Virginia's dangerous offense is led by senior quarterback Clint Trickett. He is the most efficient starting quarterback in the Big 12. The Mountaineers live and die with his play. In both games that he threw more than one interception, the team lost.

Texas matches up well defensively with their opponent this weekend. They are the best pass defense in the Big 12, giving up just 177.3 yards per game. The question for the Longhorns will be their offense. They average 22.2 points per game, which ranks them next to last in the Big 12.



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Junior centerback **Danzel McDaniel** (7) tackles Oklahoma wide receiver **Durrone Neal** (5) by shoving him out of bounds during the third quarter of the Wildcats' 31-30 defeat of the Sooners on Oct. 18 in Norman, Oklahoma.



No. 4 Alabama at No. 14 LSU, 7 p.m., CBS (Line: Alabama -6.5)

This game has had national title implication for several years in a row and has become quite heated.

Alabama and LSU are both built around their defense. The Crimson Tide allow 14 points per game, which is the second least in the nation. The Tigers are slightly less stingy and allow 15.9 points per game. That's fourth best in the nation.

Both teams had to replace

long tenured quarterbacks this season. Alabama senior Blake Sims has been the better of the two new signal callers. He has thrown for 15 touchdowns and three interceptions. LSU's sophomore quarterback Anthony Jennings has completed only 50 percent of his passes, and thrown for eight touchdowns with five interceptions.



No. 8 Notre Dame at No. 11 Arizona State, 2:30 p.m., ABC (Line: Arizona State -2.5)

Neither of these teams are

elite in one area on the field, but they are solid across the board. Both teams are led by experienced senior quarterbacks. Notre Dame's starter is Everett Golson and after sitting out last season with academic trouble, he has been very solid this year. He has thrown for 22 touchdowns and just seven interceptions.

Arizona State's quarterback Taylor Kelly had an injury that kept him out of three games earlier this season, but is now back into action. The Sun Devils are undefeated this season with Kelly at the helm.

Austin Earl is a sophomore in fishing, wildlife and conservation biology. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com

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Burns' collegiate career comes to fruition

By ADAM SUDERMAN
THE COLLEGIAN

Against Mike Gundy and Oklahoma State, K-State fans received a firsthand glimpse of the speed of junior returner and defensive back Morgan Burns. For Tyler Ryan, current head coach at Wellington High School and Burns' coach at Wichita Trinity, the 86-yard touchdown return was nothing out of the ordinary.

The three-time All-League pick both on defense and offense ran for an astounding 2,700 yards and 36 touchdowns in just two seasons for the Knights.

The speed didn't end on Friday night high school football games, either.

In Burns' senior season at Wichita Trinity, he swept the Class 4A sprints at the Kansas High School State Track and Field meet with gold medals in the 100 meters (10.66 seconds), 200 meters (21.58) and 400 meters (48.66).

Not only did he stake his claim in his respective group,

but Burns' results ranked highly in all ranks through the state of Kansas.

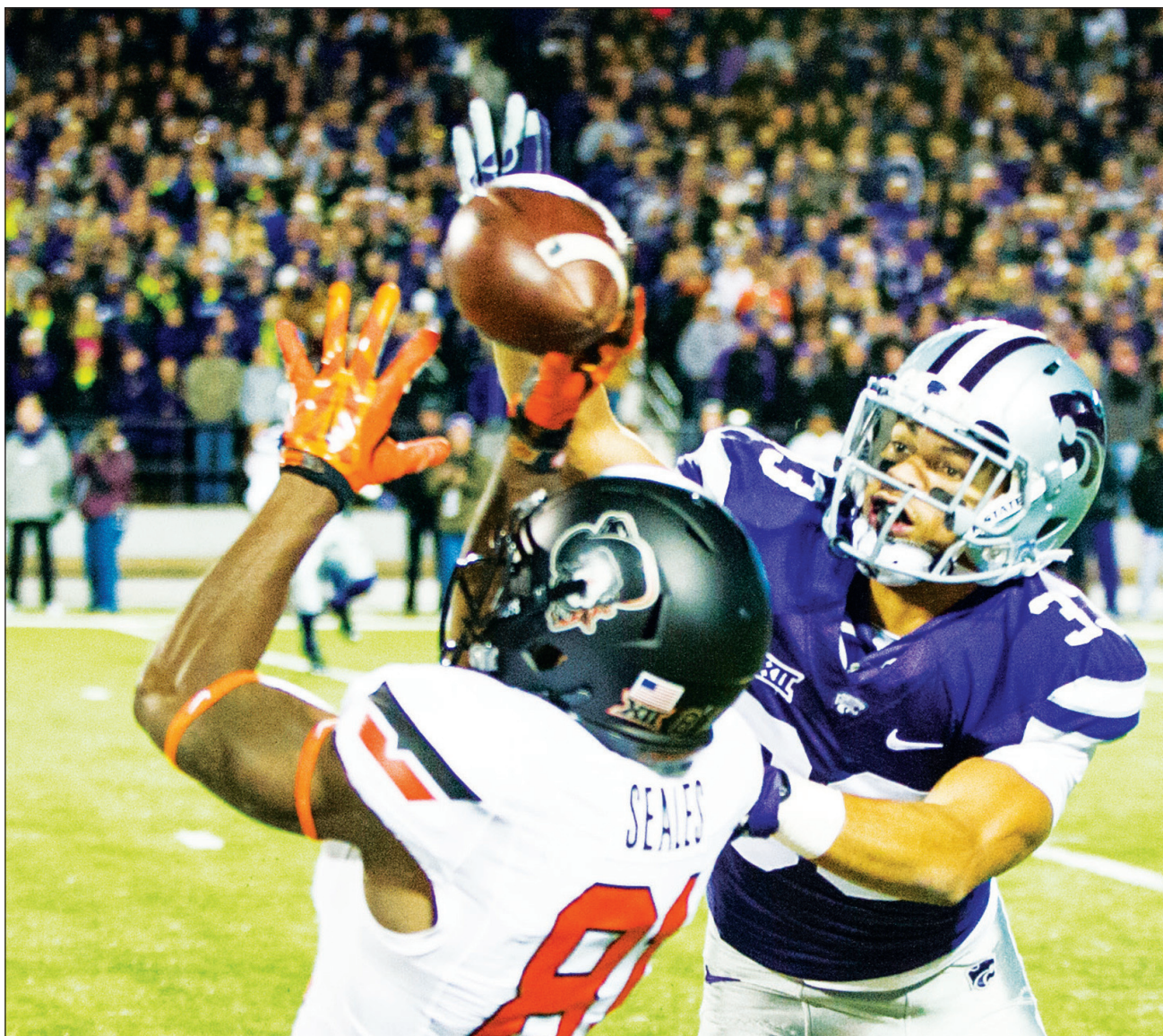
"In the 100 meters, there was one kid that beat him in all classes," Ryan said. "In the 200 and the 400, it was the fastest time in all classes. That was a pretty neat thing to see from him. To be able to do that all in one day at the state track meet is one of the biggest athletic moments I got to watch him accomplish."

The speed translated through game tape to K-State head coach Bill Snyder in the recruiting process, but his revamped attention to detail and technique has bolstered his standing in the K-State secondary.

"He's a bright young fellow and he picks things up well," Snyder said. "He understands what his deficiencies have been and he pushes toward overcoming those."

Burns took the route of a grayshirt at K-State and has completed two full seasons before becoming an every-down player in coordinator Tom Hayes' defense.

"I know he had some tri-



K-State junior defensive back **Morgan Burns** defends a pass to Oklahoma State wide receiver **Jhajuan Seales** last Saturday at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

als there and he had to earn his stripes," Ryan said. "That's what makes it so neat. To see that he's become one of the best defensive backs on the team, it's because he's worked

so hard at it. It has been fun watching him the last three years and see how much better he's gotten. He's got a tremendous ceiling in terms of improving as a player. He didn't have to bear down too many times as a corner in high school and now he's getting those finer points with his game."

Senior linebacker Jonathan Truman has served as the leading voice of K-State's conference-leading scoring defense and he said Burns' provides the needed mentality that's help them get to a top-10 ranking.

"Morgan's a guy that's not only tough physically, but mentally," Truman said. "He prepares well. Whatever happens to him, if he gets a ball thrown on him, he's going to be up next play ready to go. It's not going to phase him and he's going to do the best thing that can help our defense."

In Ryan's mind, the road to college football stardom began before Burns' stepped onto the track or the football field.

"I only had Morgan for one year, but we spent a ton of time together with football and track," Ryan said. "Probably one of the things I'm most proud of him for is not his accomplishments athletically, but on a personal level and the character that he has, it's unbelievable. He's one of the best kids I've ever been around. That's what makes it so special to see him have the success that he's having as a player at K-State."

Even beyond his game-changing interceptions against Texas Tech and Oklahoma, Snyder said Burns' approach and purpose describes the identity he carries on Saturdays.

"He's a pretty even-keeled young guy," Snyder

said. "You don't see Morgan highly upset about anything and you don't see him get overjoyed about anything. He just keeps a normal pace about himself. The other thing is he's a very faith-based young guy. He depends upon that to give him guidance and direction."

Ryan and Burns' keep in contact regularly and he said the faith that the junior displays at Vanier Football Complex is something that he has displayed for as long as he has known him.

"He'll send out an email to a lot of people in his life and I'm a part of that email chain," Ryan said. "It just talks about his faith and where it all comes from with him and family and friends. I hope he continues to hold those things close to his heart and that his foundation can be a solid rock for him as he continues his college career."



GEORGE WALKER | THE COLLEGIAN

K-State junior defensive back **Morgan Burns** takes the ball downfield during the game against Oklahoma State last Saturday at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

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TCU sees many changes this semester but defense is not one of them



Taylor Alderman | The Collegian

TCU safety **Sam Carter** tracks down former K-State quarterback **Daniel Sams** on Nov. 16, 2013.

By Tate Steinlage
The Collegian

A year ago today, TCU was 3-6 and preparing for their final three games, which they would finish 1-2 in. This season they're 7-1, fighting for a conference championship and a right to be included in the first-ever College Football Playoff.

Simply put, a lot has changed in Fort Worth, Texas in just a year.

"I think he (TCU head coach Gary Patterson) altered the system," K-State head coach Bill Snyder said Tuesday at his weekly press conference.

The most notable transfor-

mation for TCU this season has been their offense and, largely, the play of junior quarterback Trevone Boykin. The Horned Frogs are averaging 550 yards of total offense and 48 points per game, compared to just 344 yards and 25 points per game in 2013. Boykin, who has jumped from quarterback to wide receiver and now back to quarterback, is putting up Heisman candidate numbers with 2,472 yards passing and 22 touchdowns to just four interceptions through eight games.

"At some point, you get tired of people telling you what you can and can't do, so you start trying to prove them wrong and show what you can do," Patterson said to the media Tuesday at TCU's weekly press confer-

ence. "For two years, they said he (Boykin) couldn't play quarterback, we won't win and can't do this or that. He's like anybody else I know who has a fire in them. They're going to try to prove people wrong."

For everything that has changed for Patterson, Boykin and the TCU offense, their defense hasn't.

"They have nine returning starters on their defense, nine of the defensive players are upperclassmen," Snyder said. "They're very sound."

TCU's defense ranks 48th in the country in total defense at 370 yards per game, but don't let that fool you. The Horned Frogs are the best team in college football when it comes to turnover

margin, sixth best at third-down percentage and are in the top 20 in team sacks.

"I know that they have a lot of experienced guys on defense," K-State junior defensive back Morgan Burns said. "I know that Oklahoma State had some 'hitter' guys in there and some freshmen. TCU has some guys that are juniors and seniors that have been in the system for several years. They have a lot of maturity and experience under their belt."

That experience was no more evident than in TCU's narrow 31-30 victory over West Virginia last Saturday. Senior cornerback Kevin White blanketed West Virginia wide receiver Kevin White, holding him to just three receptions for 28 yards. Pri-

or to that game, White had been held to under 100 yards receiving only once in 2014.

With No. 7 K-State traveling to Texas to take on the No. 6-ranked Horned Frogs Saturday, TCU's defense will play a major factor — not only in stopping the Wildcats' offensive attack, but aiding their own offense.

Based on what they've shown this season, TCU can stop K-State senior wide receiver Tyler Lockett and they can keep K-State senior quarterback Jake Waters from getting into a rhythm. In doing so, they'll give Boykin a pressure-free window to do what he's done all season — and for him, the big play is always just a play away.

"He (Boykin) is a very gift-

ed athlete," Snyder said. "He can run the ball and do the option with it. He can do the quarterback run stuff, and he is throwing the ball extremely well and throwing it down the field — it just is not the short stuff. I think that is a major element in the great improvement that they have made and the progress and success that they have had this year."

Snyder can only make assumptions about Boykin and the TCU offense since plenty has changed since last year's meeting in Manhattan. However, defensively, he can make all the guarantees in the world. Nothing has changed there.

"There is always going to be a good and physical defensive team there," Snyder said.

Q-and-A with
ESPN Big 12 reporter Jake Trotter

By Adam Suderman
The Collegian

Q: Bill Snyder-coached teams have often gone into difficult road environments and done surprisingly well. How do you see the Wildcats handling Amon G. Carter Stadium and what it has to offer?

A: K-State won in Norman, Oklahoma last month, so I think they'll be fine. This is a veteran team with an experienced quarterback that is not going to get rattled on the road, even against a team as good as TCU.

Q: Trevone Boykin is a brand-new quarterback this season. What has been the junior's biggest asset in his rejuvenated career?

A: The work Boykin put in during the offseason is behind his success. He got in the best shape of his life and dedicated himself to figuring out the finer points of playing quarterback. His leadership has been terrific going since the spring. On the field, his ability to extend plays

with his wheels has been lethal. You can't blitz him, because he'll escape the pocket and pull off a big play running or throwing. And you can't sit back, because he'll stand in the pocket and pick your defense apart. He's a nightmare matchup for any defensive coordinator.

Q: TCU prides itself in forcing turnovers and K-State might be one of the best if not the best in avoiding mental mistakes (turnovers, penalties, etc.) Which will be the bigger story after Saturday night's game?

A: I like K-State to take care of the ball. They've been so good at it under Snyder. As good as TCU has been at forcing turnovers, and then scoring off those turnovers, I think K-State is going to make the Horned Frogs earn their points.

Q: Do you believe the winner of this game will go on to win the Big 12? Why or why not?

Yes. If TCU wins — and Baylor loses — the Horned Frogs would be in great shape to win an outright title. They

would be tied with K-State in the standings, but they would have the head-to-head tiebreaker. The Wildcats would still have to go to Waco, Texas and Morgantown, West Virginia. As for the Wildcats, if they pulled off this win, they would still have work to do. But they would be in command. TCU, OU and potentially Baylor would all have two conference losses. The Wildcats would just have to split their final two road games, and they would be Big 12 champs.

Q: Biggest position matchup of the night?

TCU cornerback Kevin White against K-State wide receiver Tyler Lockett. Lockett has been one of the toughest players to cover in the league, but White did a tremendous job matched up against one of the league's other tough covers in West Virginia WR Kevin White. The winner of this matchup will go a long way in determining the winner of this game.

Q: Score prediction?

31 TCU, 28 K-State



Courtesy of Jake Trotter

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By the numbers

BY AUSTIN EARL
THE COLLEGIAN

361.9

Trevone Boykin's average yards per game

He has been nothing short of electric for TCU this season. He averages 309 yards through the air and 52.9 yards on the ground. He also has thrown for 22 touchdowns and ran in four scores. His total yardage leads the Big 12, while his throwing touchdowns are second in the conference.

48

The Horned Frogs' average points per game

This is a basic stat, but it is one that cannot be overlooked. The Horned Frogs average the second most points per game in the nation, behind Baylor. They average 335.9 yards through the air per game and 550 yards of total offense per game. Both of those are second best in the Big 12.

1

The amount of yards that TCU has allowed on punt returns

K-State is fourth in the nation in yards per punt return, but will face a stiff challenge against TCU. Only five of the Horned Frogs punts have been returned this season, resulting in a net gain of just one yard. This matchup will have a huge implication on the battle for field position.

15

TCU's turnover margin

The Horned Frogs specialize in winning the turnover margin in each of their games. It's not that they never turn the ball over, it's that they create the most takeaways of any team in the country. They have 26 takeaways so far this season. K-State has the fewest turnovers in the Big 12 and the seventh fewest in the nation with seven total.

100.9

Rushing yards per game allowed by K-State

The Wildcats allow the second least amount of rushing yards in the Big 12. They are also ninth best in the nation at stopping the run. They have allowed just five rushing touchdowns this season. TCU's rushing game is third in the conference with 214.1 yards per game.

18.6

Points per game allowed by K-State

While TCU's forte is lighting up the scoreboard, the Wildcats do the best job in the conference of keeping teams out of the end zone. K-State's average is 12th best in the nation. The Wildcats also give up the fewest yards of total offense in the Big 12.

49.5

Percent of the time K-State converts on third down

The Wildcats are the best in the Big 12 at converting on third down and TCU is the best in the conference at getting off the field on third down, allowing their opponent to convert just 27.9 percent of the time.

Dawson jumps Heeney as best Big 12 defensive threat



AUSTIN EARL
THE COLLEGIAN

No. 1: TCU LB Paul Dawson (Last week: 2)

Dawson put in another great performance in his team's contest against West Virginia. He had 12 tackles, along with a 12-yard sack and an interception. His performance was just enough for his team to escape with a one-point victory in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Dawson's performance moves him closer to the conference lead in tackles per game, but he still sits in second. He has accumulated the ninth-most tackles per game in the entire country. Dawson is also third in tackles for loss per game in the Big 12.

TCU will face K-State on Saturday in a conference-shifting clash. The Wildcats offense is 16th in the nation in points per game and will provide a formidable challenge for Dawson's squad.

No. 2: Kansas LB Ben Heeney (Last week: 1)

Heeney's 10-tackle performance against Baylor last week almost seems pedestrian compared to his production in other games this season. The unusual thing for him in this game was playing on the other side of the ball. Heeney had one rush as Kansas' running back, but it was stuffed for no gain.

Heeney still leads the Big 12 in tackles per game, but has fallen back to fifth in the nation in the category. He is fifth in tackles for loss in the conference.

The Jayhawks have the opportunity for a conference win on Saturday when they host Iowa State. The Cyclones have a dual-threat quarterback and talented running backs, but are still 110th in the nation in rushing yards per game. Heeney could help his team in a huge way by neutralizing the opponents ground attack.

No. 3: Baylor DE Shawn Oakman (Last week: 3)

Oakman only had three tackles against Kansas, but he made his presence felt in the game. He had a sack, two tackles for loss, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and a quarterback hurry.

The explosive pass rusher is also making noise on the Big 12 defensive leaderboard. He is second in tackles for loss and third in sacks in the conference. He was a great player last season, but has taken his game up a notch in 2014.

This weekend, Oakman's team will try and stop an Oklahoma offense that puts up the ninth most points per game in the nation. Oakman will need to pursue quarterback Trevor Knight tirelessly in this game.

No. 4: K-State LB Jonathan Truman (Last week: 5)

Truman's game was not especially great last week against Oklahoma State, but he did have five tackles and a fumble recovery. He moved up in the power rankings this week because of the unit he represents.

K-State's front seven is already the best run stopping defense in the conference, but



KAITLYN BECKERT | TCU 360

TCU linebacker **Paul Dawson** pushes past Minnesota defense during the game between TCU and Minnesota on Sept. 13 at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.

against Oklahoma State they began to add a pass rush into the mix with four sacks.

Truman and his teammates will have to put up a great performance against TCU

No. 5: Oklahoma CB Zack Sanchez (Last week: 4)

Oklahoma finally won a game that was not aided by a Sanchez interception when they faced Iowa State last week. He had two tackles in the game, but no pass breakups or interceptions.

Sanchez still remains the Big 12 leader in interceptions for the season, with five. He is fourth in the conference in total pass breakups with 10.

The Sooners face the potent Baylor offense this weekend. The weight of the game falls on Oklahoma's defense. If Sanchez can create havoc in the secondary, his team has a great chance of coming away with a victory.

Austin Earl is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com

Boykin claims top spot in offensive power rankings



EMILIO RIVERA
THE COLLEGIAN

No. 1: TCU QB Trevone Boykin (Last week: 2)

Boykin is the conference's leader in total offense, accounting for 2,895 total offensive yards, including having 423 rushing yards. He represents almost all Horned Frogs' offense and when he is rolling the team is nearly unstoppable.

The junior has a deceptive arm and is underrated in his ability to make great passes. He can and will make the deep throw throughout the game just as easily as he can escape the pocket and scramble down field. The Horned Frogs are in a good spot to steal the conference and will have to rely on Boykin's ability to beat the Wildcats' stiff defense.

No. 2: West Virginia QB Clint Trickett (Last week: 1)

While Trickett's numbers have declined over the last few weeks, he still leads the conference in passing yards with 325 yards per game. Trickett depends on solid performances from his receivers, including the recently struggling conference leader Kevin White.

Due to the containment of White, Trickett struggled against the Horned Frogs, throwing for a season low in completions, completion percentage and passing yards.



HANNAH JOHANNES | TCU 360

TCU quarterback Trevone Boykin throws a pass during the first quarter against Oklahoma on Oct. 4 at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.

He looked like he was forcing throws, making his team run the ball more often than not. Trickett will need to play at his full potential if they stand a chance at finishing the season without another loss.

No. 3: Baylor QB Bryce Petty (Last week: 3)

The senior gunslinger for Baylor had a three-touchdown performance against Kansas in a cakewalk of a game. It seemed like it was a game that proves how consistent Petty can be in a season full of ups and downs. While it wasn't up to the standards of the six-touchdown, 510-yard game that he had against TCU, it was still a top-notch performance. Petty has his team on his back and is helping them remain a viable team to win the Big 12 championship.

No. 4: K-State QB Jake Waters (Last week: 4)

The senior playmaker for the Wildcats might not put up spectacular numbers, but is a consistent force that constantly puts even the best defenses in bad positions. That is something that Waters does better than most quarterbacks in the country, forcing secondary's to play up in the passing game while forcing them to stay honest in the run game. It's an amazing trait to have in a Snyder offense.

Waters never plays above his game, which is controlling the clock and making very few mistakes. His play is what will get the Wildcats over the hump and give them a fighting chance in the Big 12.

No. 5: Oklahoma QB Trevor Knight (Last week: not ranked)

The sophomore has worked himself back into the conversation with an explosion of production against the Cyclones. The Sooners saw their quarterback lead the team with 146 yards, while also throwing for 230 yards. Even though he threw two interceptions, Knight rallied his team to take the Cyclones behind the metaphorical woodshed. Knight was blamed for some of his team's shortcomings in the past few games, and finally proved that he can lead his team to a blowout victory

Emilio Rivera is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com

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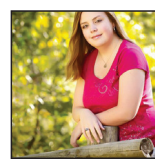
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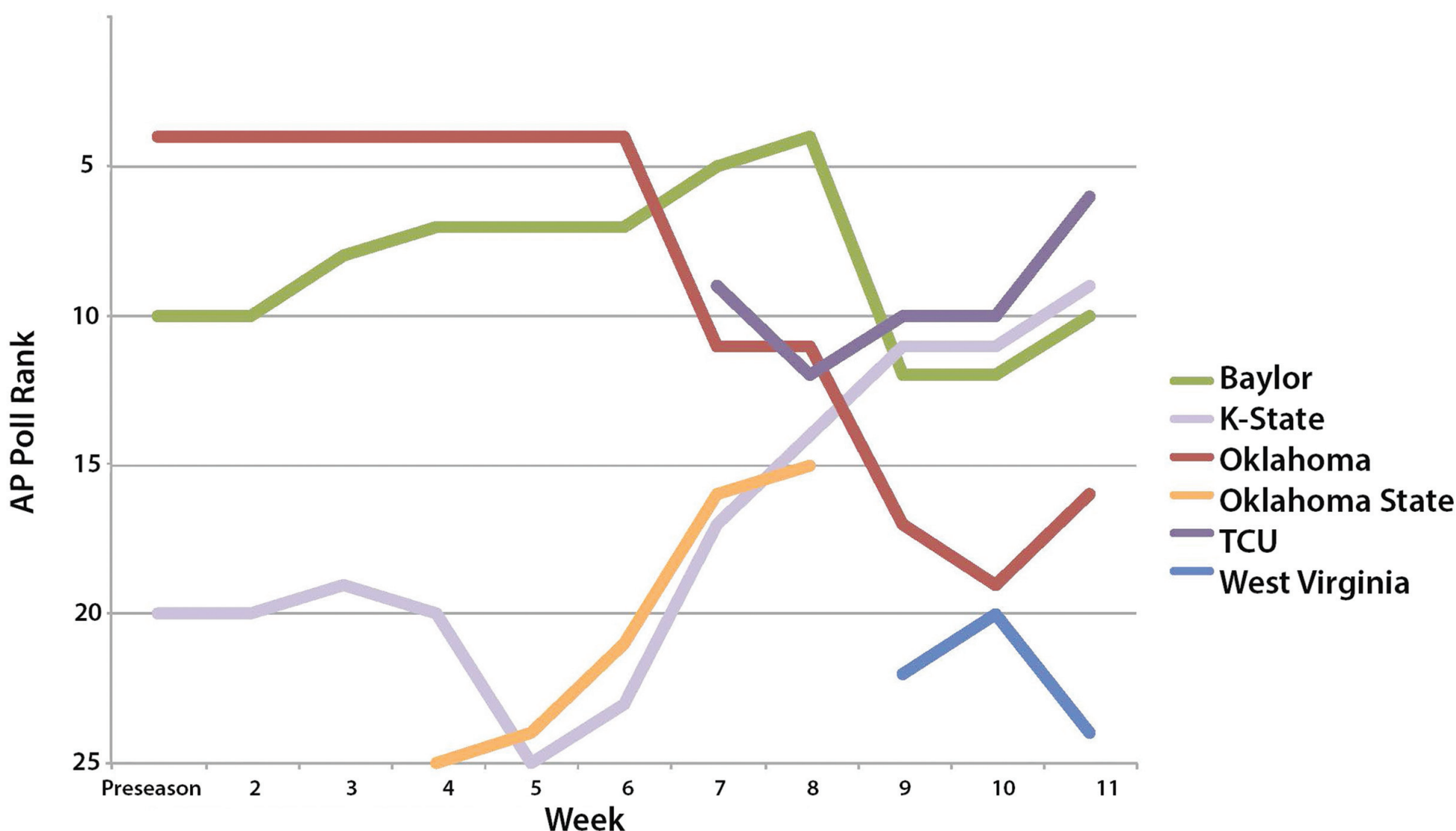
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